

North Carolina National Guard

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NATIONAL GUARD MULTI AGENCY WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION RESPONSE
EXERCISE SCHEDULED FOR PITT COUNTY**

RALEIGH – Soldiers and Airmen of the North Carolina National Guard 42nd Civil Support Team, headquartered in Greenville, are scheduled to participate in a multi-agency exercise at the Pitt County Fairgrounds Tuesday and Wednesday.

The exercise at the fairgrounds, U.S. Highway 264 Bypass North, simulates a Weapons of Mass Destruction event in Pitt County.

Many specialized vehicles and military helicopters will be in operation in the area near or on the Pitt County Fairgrounds. Personnel may be wearing protective suits and simulate military operations including detonation of training devices.

This exercise is part of continual training by the North Carolina National Guard with local, state and federal agencies. In a real world event, the incident commander is a local first responder who the 42nd CST would support with specialized training and equipment. The 42nd CST highlights the North Carolina National Guard's continuing mission to provide ready forces to protect life and property, and to preserve peace, order, and public safety.

Able to deploy statewide within 2 hours, the team is designed to augment local and regional terrorism response capabilities in events known or suspected to involve Weapons of Mass Destruction. WMD events are incidents involving hostile use of chemicals (such as nerve or blister agents, or toxic industrial chemicals), biological (anthrax or ricin) or radiological. The Team assists the Incident Commander by identifying the type of WMD; assessing its impact on the local community and its population; advising civilian responders on appropriate action; and helping to expedite requests for assistance help save lives, prevent human suffering, and mitigate great property damage.

NOTE TO EDITORS: This event is not for public attendance. Media wishing to cover the TRAINING exercise should RSVP with the North Carolina National Guard Public Affairs Officer Maj. Matt Handley, 919-664-6242. Media will need to check in with Maj. Handley at the Pitt County Fairgrounds during the exercise.